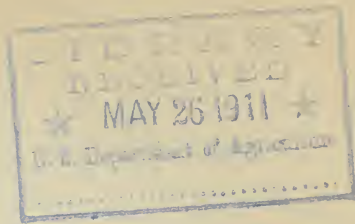


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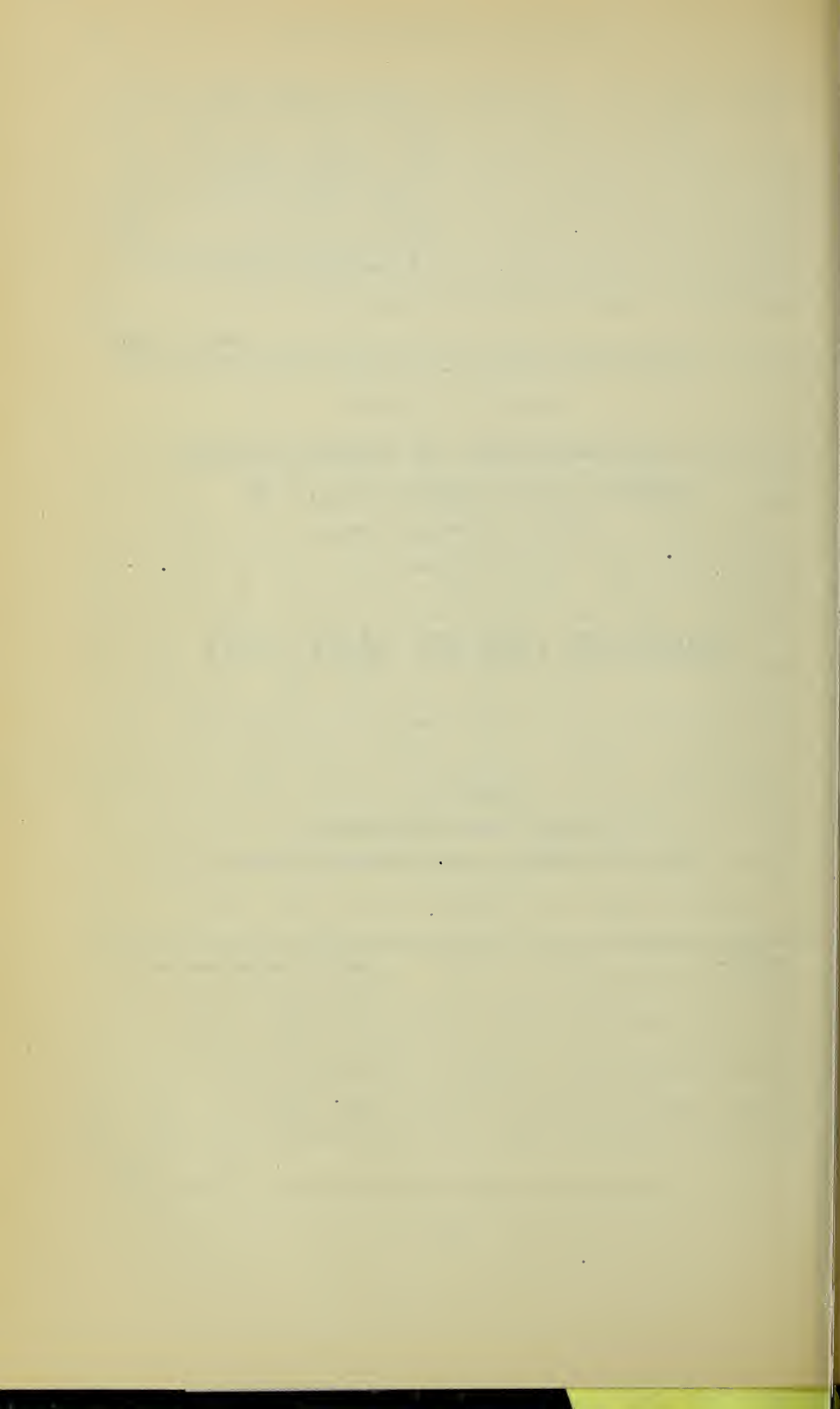
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FOREIGN CROPS, MAY, 1911

PREPARED BY

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INTRODUCTION.

Excepting the partial failure of the corn crop in Argentina and Uruguay and a backward state of vegetation and spring seeding in almost all Europe, the foreign crop situation at the end of April was in all its diverse phases fairly satisfactory. Excellent sowing weather has been experienced in Argentina, and the areas laid down to wheat, flaxseed, and oats are probably the most extensive in her history; corn husking, now drawing to a close, has, however, given the worst results in several years, and former estimates of an export surplus of 20,000,000 bushels are now generally regarded as too high. The small corn crop of Uruguay is also reported a failure. In Australia it is doubtful if a full area has been sown to winter wheat, seeding having been widely interrupted by rains. The harvest of wheat and oilseeds in British India has with few exceptions made satisfactory progress, and by virtue of increased areas outturns are expected to equal or even surpass those of the most prolific years. In Canada the sowing of spring wheat has been in active progress; on probably 80 per cent of the land intended for this cereal the seed was in the soil on May 1, the total promising largely to exceed all previous records.

Over almost all Europe temperatures during early April were abnormally low; frosts and heavy snowfalls in many countries checked the development of vegetation and brought spring field work temporarily to a standstill. As a consequence vegetation and farming operations are almost everywhere more or less in arrears. In Great Britain wheat is officially stated to cover an area 5 per cent greater than last year; the condition, though not of the best, is pretty well up to average. In France unseasonable cold, with heavy snows, early in the month interfered widely with farming operations; much injury was done to early fruits and vegetables, but growing cereals are said to have been effectively protected by the snow. The area under wheat is believed to show some decrease, but the condition is better than at the same date last year. Although the cold weather also extended over Spain and Italy, there are no definite reports of damage to the staple crops.

In central Europe the general agricultural situation, though fairly satisfactory, is not so promising as at the corresponding period a

year ago. In Germany the condition of winter wheat is officially rated average, but the much more important bread grain, rye, is under average, while the appearance of clover and alfalfa is the worst in years. Winter cereals in Austria are somewhat backward, and the spring-sown show unsatisfactory germination. In Hungary wheat was damaged by field mice and frost during the winter to the extent of 10.3 per cent, representing a loss of probably 15,000,000 bushels. From the Balkan States there are no serious complaints, but reports are not so roseate as at this time last year, when predictions were already being made of the most bountiful season the country had ever known.

In so far as known, cereals in Russia seem to have wintered well, excepting in parts of some of the southern governments, where more or less extensive replowings were necessary. Winter was prolonged over practically the entire country until mid-April. Spring sowings were everywhere much delayed, and some apprehension is felt respecting the possible consequences to the important spring wheat crop in case of droughty weather later in the season.

CANADA.

All indications point to a heavy increase of spring-wheat acreage in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba. Various causes have made this result probable. Immigration has been exceptional; over 48,000 homestead entries were made during the last year, and a wide extent of new ground has been brought under the plow. Seeding about a fortnight later than a year ago, but favored, with rare exceptions, by almost ideal conditions of soil and weather, was mostly completed by May 1. It is officially stated that Manitoba and Saskatchewan had 70 per cent of the proposed area sown at the end of April and Alberta and British Columbia 80 per cent. Estimates of a 25 per cent increase over the area sown in 1910 are common; should they be verified over ten and one-half million acres will be under wheat in the three provinces this year. The surface under flaxseed, it is believed, will also be heavily augmented.

In the eastern Provinces of the Dominion, excepting the unimportant producer Nova Scotia, the culture of wheat is on the decline, the area having fallen from 1,676,000 acres in 1890 to 899,000 in 1910, whereas during the same period the acreage in the western Provinces, not including British Columbia, increased from 1,010,000 to 8,396,000 acres. The statement following shows the development of the wheat-growing industry and of the wheat-export movement in the Dominion during the past 20 years, as indicated by census reports for 1890 and 1900 and estimates of the Dominion Department of Agriculture for 1908, 1909, and 1910.

Total area and production of wheat in the Dominion of Canada, and exports of wheat and wheat flour therefrom, in specified years.

Area and production.			Exports.		
Calendar year.	Area sown.	Production.	Year ended June 30.	Wheat.	Wheat flour.
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>		<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>
1890	2,701,213	42,223,372	1891	2,108,216	1,583,084
1900	4,224,542	55,572,368	1901	9,739,758	1,811,869
1908 ¹	6,610,300	112,434,000	1909	47,840,324	1,953,884
1909 ¹	7,750,400	166,744,000	1910	53,045,620	3,314,356
1910 ¹	9,294,800	149,990,000	1911 ²	32,240,622	2,045,812

¹ Not including British Columbia.

² Eight months ended February, 1911.

Winter wheat, it may be added, is produced to a noteworthy extent in the Dominion only in Ontario and Alberta; the respective areas sown last fall for harvest in 1911 have been officially estimated at 682,500 and 107,800 acres, against 609,200 and 98,000 last year.

The May 10 report of the Dominion Department of Agriculture says:

In Ontario April frosts were destructive in some regions; and from 12 to 34 per cent of the area sown has been reported as winter-killed. The central counties north of Lake Ontario suffered worst, the average loss as reported being 34 per cent. In the western counties 27 per cent of the area in crop has been destroyed. In the southern counties north of Lake Erie the loss is 10 per cent; in the northern counties and districts, 12.6 per cent; and in the eastern counties, between the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers, 15 per cent. For the whole of Canada the area winter-killed is reported to be 21 per cent, and the per cent condition of the growing crop is 82.

ARGENTINA.

From the fact that 20 years ago the acreage under wheat in Argentina was approximately the same as that in Canada, it is of interest to contrast the subsequent development of each country in the cultivation and exportation of this cereal. Below are the official figures on the area, production, and export of wheat in Argentina for practically the same years as shown above for Canada:

Total area and production of wheat in Argentina, and exports of wheat and wheat flour therefrom, in specified years.

Area and production.			Exports.		
Crop year.	Area sown.	Production.	Calendar year.	Wheat.	Wheat flour.
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>		<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>
1890-91	2,970,656	31,048,117	1891	14,534,009	78,904
1900-01	8,351,360	74,752,034	1901	33,226,592	806,951
1908-09	14,981,920	156,162,327	1909	92,377,517	1,310,241
1909-10	14,422,100	131,010,000	1910	69,209,499	1,298,104
1910-11	15,451,600	139,625,000	1911	.....	.....

Within the 20-year period twelve and one-half million acres have been added to the wheat fields of Argentina and only six and one-half million to those of Canada, the areas in 1910 having been, respec-

tively, 15,452,000 and 9,295,000 acres. The figures on production are not so accurate an index of the relative advance in wheat culture, since the frequent occurrence of drought in one or the other country often vitiates the value of these figures as a measure of comparative progress. As would naturally be expected, Argentina is regularly the more important exporter. The population of Argentina is about 6,500,000, and of Canada about seven and three-fourths millions; the domestic wheat requirement, including seed, of the former is probably greater than that of the latter by only a few million bushels.

The 1910-11 wheat crop of Argentina has turned out somewhat better than anticipated. A revised estimate (April 20) of the Argentine Ministry of Agriculture now puts the yield at 139,625,000 bushels—preliminary estimate last December, 136,318,000 bushels—and final figures for 1909-10, 131,010,000 bushels. The provisional estimate (26,967,000 bushels) of the 1910-11 flaxseed crop has been reduced to 23,620,000 bushels, against definite figures for the previous year of 28,212,000 bushels. As corn gathering progressed during March and April, pessimism respecting the outcome became intensified, popular belief becoming more and more confirmed that, in consequence of the damage from drought, there would be little surplus for export. In recent years the exports of corn have largely exceeded those from the United States, as may be seen from the following statement:

Production of corn in Argentina, and exports thereof as compared with those from the United States.

[Bushels of 56 pounds.]

Calendar year.	Production, Argentina.	Exports.	
		From Argentina.	From United States.
1910....	175,330,000	104,812,000	42,692,961
1909....	177,157,000	89,499,359	36,205,650
1908....	136,057,000	67,390,278	37,577,717
1907....	71,768,000	50,262,705	83,200,872
1906....	194,912,000	106,047,790	102,518,817

During corn harvest, field work preparatory to getting in the autumn-sown wheat, flaxseed, and oats was in full swing. The weather is reported to have been generally propitious, opportune rains kept the soil for the most part in good workable condition, much new ground is said to have been broken in the Pampa and Cordoba, and confidence is expressed that the total area sown to each of the above-named crops will exceed that of any previous year.

AUSTRALIA.

Plowing for winter wheat, which began early in April, has suffered considerable interruption in some districts from excessive rains, and

in the eastern States of the Commonwealth it is said the land seeded may be somewhat curtailed. In Western Australia wheat culture is likely again to undergo extension.

NEW ZEALAND.

The official preliminary estimate of the yields of grain for the current season, with a comparison of the actual yields for the previous season, is given below:

Area and production of grain in New Zealand.

Crops.	Year.	Area.	Production.	
			Per acre.	Total.
		<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Bushels.¹</i>	<i>Bushels.¹</i>
Wheat.....	1910-11	274,533	26.10	7,164,181
	1909-10	311,000	28.97	9,008,322
Oats.....	1910-11	353,997	38.11	13,492,423
	1909-10	377,000	37.01	13,953,128
Barley.....	1910-11	32,969	28.08	925,682
	1909-10	41,500	30.51	1,266,098

¹ Winchester bushels reduced from Imperial bushels.

BRITISH INDIA.

Harvest of wheat and oil seeds, now nearing an end, has been favored by good weather, excepting occasional heavy rains and high winds in the United Provinces and the Punjab; prospects of a bumper crop in this, in point of area, the third largest wheat-producing country of the world, are well maintained. The acreage exceeds all previous records but one. The highest yield in the history of the country was 360,000,000 bushels in 1904, out of which there were exported 80,000,000 bushels. The statistical history of the production and exportation of wheat for the past few years is as below:

Production and exports of wheat in British India.

Area and production.			Exports.		
Calendar year.	Area.	Production.	Year ended Mar. 31.	Wheat.	Wheat flour.
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>		<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>
1911	¹ 28,973,000	.....	1912	.....	.....
1910	27,919,000	357,941,000	1911	(²)	(²)
1909	26,149,000	284,361,000	1910	39,221,437	265,275
1908	28,824,500	227,983,000	1909	4,097,602	227,817
1907	29,212,500	317,023,000	1908	32,870,475	281,657
1906	26,357,400	319,952,000	1907	29,920,639	309,688
1905	28,470,200	283,063,000	1906	35,004,872	340,183
1904	28,413,700	359,936,000	1905	80,267,604	390,228

¹ Preliminary estimate.

² Data not yet available.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The wintry weather of March continued up to mid-April, seriously hampering field work and retarding the growth of vegetation, but warmth and sunshine the latter half of the month expedited the seeding of nearly all land intended for grain. Probably owing to additional sowings in February, the area under wheat has been officially returned as 5 per cent larger than last year. The condition of the autumn-sown fields is said to be fairly promising, the principal exceptions being on those sown late, that is, after the heavy downpours of last November. February sowings are described as presenting an appearance of robust vitality. Oats is believed to have been sown on a much larger and barley on a smaller area than last year. Excepting for a somewhat retarded state of vegetation general prospects are quite satisfactory.

FRANCE.

Unseasonably low temperature prevailed intermittently throughout a great part of April. Snow, rain, hail, and sleet were reported from all regions within the first 10 days of the month, and in some places the mercury fell lower than in any April in 40 years. In the south early vegetables, vineyards, and early flowering fruit trees, such as almonds, apricots, and peaches, were seriously attainted by frost, but owing to a fortuitous covering of snow over most of the country no extensive damage seems to have been done the cereals. Subsequent weather permitted resumption of the interrupted sowing of spring oats, barley, and wheat, and the preparation of the soil for planting sugar beets and potatoes, but continued low temperatures, with white frosts up to near the end of the month, caused constant anxiety over the fate of the more tender vegetation. Notwithstanding widespread apprehensions, the agricultural situation at the end of the month was on the whole spoken of rather favorably—certainly more hopefully than at the same time last year. Winter wheat probably covers a reduced area; the early sown, the bulk of the crop, is spoken of in general as having a promising appearance; but that sown in December and January is said in some localities, especially of the west, north, and east, to have a thin stand, because of poor germination. The condition of winter rye, which likewise probably covers a surface less than last year, is satisfactory; that of winter oats poor. The sowing of spring cereals, notwithstanding some delay from inclement weather, was practically finished by mid-April, or earlier than last year. Early growth was vigorous, but owing to a period of drought and heat in the closing days of the month, late reports were less optimistic.

The French Ministry of Agriculture has recently issued its final estimates of the area and production of cereals in 1910; wheat has

yielded 9,183,000, and rye 6,769,000 measured bushels less than originally estimated. The official data follow:

Final area and production of grain crops of France in 1910.

Crops.	Area.	Production.	
		By measure.	By weight.
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Bushels.¹</i>	<i>Bushels.²</i>
Wheat.....	16,209,500	259,181,000	254,507,000
Maslin.....	1,081,000	5,436,000	5,327,000
Rye.....	3,004,200	44,981,000	44,913,000
Barley.....	1,850,200	43,676,000	44,842,000
Oats.....	9,766,700	296,088,000	342,875,000

¹ Winchester bushels.

² Bushels: Wheat 60, maslin 58, rye 56, barley 48, and oats 32 pounds.

SPAIN.

Rather vague complaints of crop damage, due to low temperatures and frosts, have been reported from some districts.

ITALY.

Although abnormal weather for these latitudes—snow in the north and night frosts in the south—was experienced in early April, there have been few noteworthy complaints respecting the state of either the autumn or spring sown crops. Ample moisture to facilitate the preparation of the soil and seasonable development of vegetation are reported from most districts.

GERMANY.

In the report of the Imperial Statistical Office on the mid-April condition of crops in Germany, it is stated that the snowfalls of the winter of 1910–11 were of moderate proportions and short duration. Spring set in early, with summerlike days in March. Early April was unseasonably cold, warm weather resuming sway only during the latter half of the month. Respecting the state of the crops, the report is not especially assuring. The late sown are said to have developed poorly, having suffered from April frosts and from ravages of field mice. Replanting will be necessary on an extensive scale, but the extent can not be known until the issuance of the May report. Below are the official figures:

Crop conditions in Germany April 15.

[1=very good; 2=good; 3=medium; 4=poor; 5=very poor.]

Crops.	Apr. 15, 1911.	Nov. 15, 1910.	Apr. 15, 1910.	Apr. 15, 1909.	Apr. 15, 1908.	Average Apr. 15, 1901–1910.
Winter wheat.....	2.7	2.6	2.2	3.1	2.5	2.7
Winter rye.....	2.8	2.7	2.4	3.0	2.6	2.6
Clover.....	3.0	.....	2.3	2.8	2.5	2.6
Alfalfa.....	2.9	.....	2.4	2.7	2.5	2.5

AUSTRIA.

According to the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, wheat, rye, clover, and alfalfa emerged from the winter in good condition, but cold weather in early April retarded growth. At the date to which the report refers (April 15), potato planting had for the most part been finished, corn planting was still in progress, and the sowing of spring barley and oats had just begun. Owing to the low temperature the spring-sown cereals had germinated poorly, and barley, when up, had lost color. Hops wintered well and are in good condition.

HUNGARY.

Wheat prospects deteriorated considerably during the winter, the Ministry of Agriculture on April 9 putting the loss at 10.3 per cent. The greater proportion is attributed to the ravages of field mice, the loss from that cause being 7.2 per cent and from winterkill only 3.1. The surface under wheat shows some increase on both sides of the Danube, but elsewhere a small decline. Rye, barley, and oats are believed to cover a diminished area, as compared with last year. Wintry weather, with snow and night frosts, were reported from all parts of the country during a great part of April. Farm work and spring sowings were interrupted, but no losses of an irreparable character are believed to have been incurred.

ROUMANIA.

The weather during April was warm and spring-like with plentiful showers over the greater part of the country, and work in the fields progressed under favorable circumstances. Corn planting is now in progress. Autumn-sown grain, especially wheat, is generally spoken of as looking well, although in some districts resowings were necessary. Crop prospects are in general satisfactory.

BULGARIA.

The German consul at Varna reported April 6 that notwithstanding repeated frosts and snow in March, crops in that district were everywhere satisfactory. The winter was on the whole favorable for spring sowings, then in full progress or even in some places ended, excepting in the case of corn and beans, the planting of which had not begun.

RUSSIA.

The striking feature of the beginning of the agricultural season of 1911 has been the late advent of spring throughout the entire country. During the first half of April farm work was almost everywhere inter-

rupted by heavy falls of snow, and, though subsequently there was fine weather, sowings are much in arrears. In many places operations were only begun at a date that in ordinary years marks their completion. The delay is undesirable in that it may jeopardize the chances of the spring crops, particularly the important spring wheat crop, becoming well rooted before the heated season sets in. The general impression seems to be that excepting in some southern governments, notably Bessarabia, Kherson, the Crimea, the Don territory, and a few others, winter cereals have successfully passed through the rigors of winter. The central statistical committee, in a report early in April, relating to 61 governments, stated that snow cover during the winter had been sufficient in 19, not quite sufficient in 25, and entirely insufficient in 17 governments, but no definite figures are available indicating the amount of damage done on unprotected territory.

EUROPEAN TURKEY.

The director of statistics in the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture, Mines, and Forests has recently issued a report on agricultural production, covering all of European Turkey except one vilayet, and certain mountainous districts in another from which returns had not yet arrived. Although European Turkey comprises less than 6 per cent of the area, it contains nearly 25 per cent of the population of the Ottoman Empire; and the statistics of its production have, therefore, an interest considerably in excess of that which they would derive from its mere territorial extent.

Area, production, and value of cereals in European Turkey.

Crops.	Area (acres).	Product (bushels). ¹	Value.
Wheat.....	1,061,225	19,461,778	\$19,530,370
Rye.....	258,845	5,808,165	4,440,537
Barley.....	510,677	13,443,431	8,366,743
Oats.....	297,187	6,526,483	2,605,095
Corn.....	726,568	16,658,136	11,902,963
Other cereals.....	157,363	2,989,770	1,687,272
Total.....	3,011,865	64,887,763	48,532,980

¹ Bushels of capacity.

Peas, beans, lentils, and chick peas (dry), with potatoes added, amounting to 52,315,200 pounds, and worth \$877,978, were grown on 86,591 acres. Other crops grown are:

Crops.	Acres.	Product (pounds).
Tobacco.....	62,415	49,177,190
Cotton, flax, and hemp.....	24,895	9,262,717
Sesame, opium, canary seed.....	54,278	19,947,863

These, with the addition of olives, olive oil, and cocoons, for which areas are given, are valued at \$6,591,451. Grapes, wine, and brandy, valued at \$3,319,847, were obtained from 181,035 acres in vines. Fruit trees yielded \$50,190, and animals and animal products, \$14,131,847. The grand total is \$73,504,293, of which the cereals contributed nearly two-thirds.

Approved:

JAMES WILSON,

Secretary of Agriculture.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *May 10, 1911.*

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